

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5 and 6 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 4 is canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Claim 1 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of canceled claim 4. Thus, no new matter is added.

I. Telephonic Interview

The courtesies extended to Applicants' representative by Examiner Nguyen during the telephone interview held July 29, 2005, are appreciated. The reasons during the telephone interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute Applicants' record of the interview.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

The indication of allowable subject matter in claim 4 is appreciated, it being allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the features of its base claim and any intervening claims. As the subject matter of allowable claim 4 is incorporated into independent claim 1, all pending claims are in condition for allowance. The subject matter of intervening claim 3 is not incorporated into independent claim 1 as this feature does not affect the patentability of the combination of claims 1 and 4, as discussed and agreed during the telephone interview.

III. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-3, 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over JP 2002-119008 to Masuno in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,286,186 to Hagenlocher et al. (Hagenlocher). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The combination of references fails to disclose or suggest each and every feature recited in the rejected claims. For example, due to the amendment of claim 1 to include the allowable subject matter of claim 4, neither Masuno nor Hagenlocher whether considered alone or in combination, disclose or suggest the features recited therein. Accordingly,

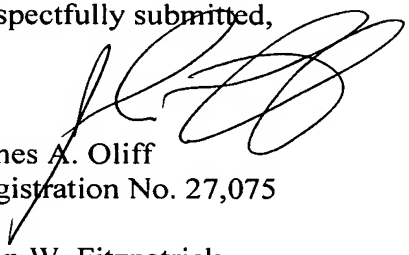
withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-3, 5 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-3, 5 and 6 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


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